

CONSTANTINE BROWN

Kremlin Prepares for Geneva**Reds Out to Convince World They
Are Doing Most to Ease Tensions**

The Soviet propaganda machine is pulling out all the stops before the start of the foreign ministers' conference at Geneva to convince the world that the Kremlin has only the best and purest intentions to relax world tension.

The Reds are warning peace-loving peoples that any setback will be the sole responsibility of "certain circles" in America which have intentionally thrown "buckets of cold water on enthusiasm of the people for the spirit of Geneva."

The Reds cite as among the main culprits the "Dulles brothers" (the Secretary of State and the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency), Admiral Arthur Radford and Gen. Alfred Gruenther.

But while the Red propagandists are beating the tom-toms and urging all peace-loving people to demonstrate vocally for continuation of Moscow's sweetness and light policies, the Soviet diplomats are successfully active in the Middle East. They are offering the Arabs, who are disillusioned by our uncertain policies, the arms they have been seeking for years.

Our reluctance to provide Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Syria with weapons can be explained by the desire of our policy makers to prevent minor wars flaring in that area. The policy of providing Israel with arms — mainly through France — was based on the fact that the Jews who are numerically greatly inferior to the Arabs had to be in a position to resist a possible onslaught from their vastly more numerous neighbors.

The State Department believed that it could hold back the Tel Aviv government either directly or through the United Nations, so long as the Arabs did not have sufficient equipment and thus could not appear as aggressors. Our foreign policy framers made a serious mistake in not heeding the friendly Egyptian warnings that if we did not give them arms they would find them "elsewhere."

The optimistic State Department thought the Egyptians were bluffing. It also believed that the Nasser government could not afford to lose the small amounts of economic assistance it receives from the United States by making a deal with the USSR and its satellites. The Soviet diplomacy, which appears more co-ordinated than ours because it does not need to be mindful of the sensitivity of allies, lost no time. It jumped into the breach and offered not only Egypt but also Israel's other Arab neighbors everything we refused them.

The Reds were not prompted by a sentiment of generosity.

Their long-range planning requires that the West be deprived of important bases and friends in the Near and Middle East. Hostilities in that important strategic area would suit them perfectly. Moscow not only rejoices at the uprisings in Morocco and Algeria but encourages them by words and deeds. It would welcome a hot war between the Arabs and Israel without bothering too much who the winner might be.

If Israel were successful at first, Moscow could continue the hostilities indefinitely through a continual support with arms and possible "volunteers." An Arab victory would be a serious slap at the Western coalition. In either case the prestige and influence of Moscow would be enhanced and an important section of the Middle East would fall under the Kremlin's influence.

The conclusion of liberal trade and barter pacts between Egypt on the one hand and the USSR, Czechoslovakia, Red China and Eastern Germany on the other made an impression on other Arab nations. The fact that these agreements had no visible strings attached — particularly of a political nature — impressed the leaders of Saudi Arabia and Syria who were eager to follow Egypt's example. Moscow was anxious

to help these "backward" countries with everything they wanted. And since arms have always been top on their list, Moscow is offering tools of war at cut-rate prices to be paid on such long terms that they appear to have been given free.

While the Arabs who are falling into the Soviet trap insist that they will not accept Red technicians, it is obvious that they will be compelled to do so in order to learn how to handle the arms. The Soviet Union has a substantial Moslem population from whose numbers specialists could be selected for Arab areas which still do not like "infidels." Also Egypt learned to like and appreciate German technicians before the last war. East Germany is only too willing to supply them now.

It is not the spirit of Geneva which inspires the Soviet activities in the Arab world. It is a cold policy of depriving the West, and particularly the United States, of reliable allies in one of the most sensitive strategic spots in the world.

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